



NTEU

The National Treasury Employees Union

SUPPORT WAXMAN AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3925

Dear Representative:

On Wednesday, April 10, the House will consider H.R. 3925, the "Digital Tech Corps Act of 2002." Congressman Henry Waxman will offer an amendment to this bill that would establish a Federal Information Technology Training Program and prevent access to confidential information by IT contractors. The National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) asks for your support for this amendment.

NTEU has consistently raised concerns about the lack of funding and resources for IT training of federal employees, and the failure of federal IT programs to meet the needs of the Federal government and the taxpayers. As a result, the government is facing enormous challenges in recruiting and retaining a dependable and highly skilled in-house information technology workforce, and the problem is only going to get worse.

Mr. Waxman's amendment addresses many of these shortcomings by establishing a comprehensive training program for federal IT workers with meaningful courses and rigorous standards. The training program is designed to give agencies tangible results by meeting the diverse information resource management needs of each agency ranging from basic non-occupational computer training to expert occupational proficiency in specialized IT programs.

In addition, the amendment will ensure that private sector employees who participate in this exchange program do not have access to trade secrets or other non-public information that could enrich their employer. Many agencies, including the IRS, FDIC, SEC, and FDA, store confidential and sensitive taxpayer and proprietary business information in their computer databases. Individuals and businesses rightly expect this information to be safeguarded and not shared with other private sector companies. If there are not adequate safeguards to protect this information, more and more businesses and individuals will likely choose to avoid compliance with our tax laws and other regulatory requirements, rather than risk having that information shared with other private sector companies.

NTEU urges your support for the Waxman amendment, a common-sense approach to helping agencies address their information technology needs. For more information, please contact Jim Wall or Maureen Gilman in NTEU's Legislation Department at 202-783-4444.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Kelley
National President